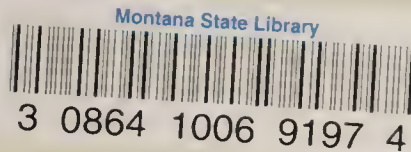


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STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

STATE DOCUMENTS

March Bulletin
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RABBLE ROUSING VERSUS DISCRIMINATION

John Belindo, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, explained the attitude of Indians toward rabble rousing in his testimony before a Congressional Committee in Congress.

A senator was merely wondering about a fundamental difference between Indians and Negroes. Negroes, he noted, had grievances and some of them retaliated violently against the white society; Indians suffered in silence.

In reply, John Belindo, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, told the senator that street demonstrations were not in the Indian character.

"It isn't their nature to demonstrate," he said. "Indians have a deep reverence for the land; they wouldn't think of razing anything."

Indians would no more think of burning property than they would of polluting the air or the streams, he said.

Belindo was the final witness at a hearing conducted by the Senate subcommittee on Indian education.

Tribal leaders told the committee that the white man's school system, by trying to impose an alien culture on their children, was driving the children to alcoholism and suicide. They wanted a voice in running the schools to teach Indian culture, not just a lot of unattainable white middleclass values.

"Indians couldn't care less about washing machines, about doves flying out of kitchen windows, about other 'mainstream' values," Belindo said.

Efforts to stir up Indian thinking and conduct through rabble rousing usually fail because the Indian has a long history of values, cultures, and mode of life. He respects them. His values have meaning to him. The public at large has little understanding of these values. The recent incident at the University of Montana Basic Training and Prevocational School was an effort to stir up the Indians through rabble rousing and using discrimination as the foundation for the effort.

What is discrimination? In nine cases out of ten it is some mental attitude stimulated by the parents. Fights between kids on the school ground can usually be traced back to statements made by parents. The teachers usually take the pupils and talk to them and get them to see the error of their ways and induce them to live together in a harmonious manner.

People discriminate against their neighbors, themselves, and relatives in matters not based on race, but mostly based on jealousy.

Mr. Ed Belgard, Chairman of Landless Indians Inc., explained in the Tribal Council meeting how the Landless Indians met the controversy in Helena. A committee of Landless

Indians called upon the school board, the school administrators, teachers, and parents. Through conference of this kind the attitudes changed and more tolerance was noticeable.

Mrs. Small, Crow, spoke about the problems at Crow 10 and 12 years ago and explained their approach to obtain more tolerance of the Crow Indians in the school and the community until at present this intolerant attitude has almost disappeared.

The problem at the Missoula High School was a very minor affair between two girl students, one of whom was a girl with Indian background. The problem could easily have been solved if the school counselor had been able to take the two girls into conference and solve their problems. Both girls could have profited from such an experience and become better personalities as a result. Instead the parents took one pupil out of school and blew the episode into unreasonable proportions. The result is that the personalities of both girls have been injured and will enter life with prejudice and ill feeling between the groups.

Tolerance is learned through experience as indicated by Mrs. Small and Mr. Belgard and not by rabble rousing.

School discrimination comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Instruction, Division of Indian Education. The community of Missoula and the University have wonderful records for race toleration and fair play as illustrated by the Rineharts (colored) and two Dennison boys (Blackfeet), Edison Real Bird (Crow).

ARIZONA INDIAN TRIBES ORGANIZE MUTUAL AID PROGRAM FOR SELF HELP

From Amerindian-December 1967

The new Indian Development District of Arizona is made up of nine of the 17 local Indian reservations. It is combined into a statewide corporation that will enable Indian tribes to qualify for Economic Development Administration districting funds.

Rupert Parker, a Hualapai, is the president. Other officers are: Robert Mackett (Papago) and Howard Schurz (Salt River), vice presidents; Alexander Lewis (Pima), secretary-treasurer.

The state-chartered corporation is expected to develop strategically located planning areas, each with professional staff. The end result will be Indian and non-Indian interaction, with a common goal.

This is significant when it is realized that in Arizona only Indian reservations are eligible to receive assistance from EDA programs; 17 percent of the land is privately owned while nearly 30 percent is Indian owned.

Art Hubbard, a Navajo who is on the Governor's staff, will coordinate the program until the corporation becomes operational.

Arizona's three state universities are expected to take part in the IDDA program, and business and engineering consultants may be called upon for further advice.

IMPORTANT INDIAN LEGISLATION NOW BEFORE FEDERAL CONGRESS

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From Indian Record-February 1968

The next few weeks will be vital to Indian people as the 90th Congress begins its second session. Many matters affecting Indian people are before the Congress.

There is substantive legislation pending, such as:

The Indian Resources Development Bill

A bill to settle the claims of the native peoples of Alaska.

Heirship bills

Amendment to Public Law 280

Repeal of the 1917 Act which restricts scholarship aid to Indian students.

Long-term leasing bills

There are also several judgment bills and other bills of interest to particular tribes.

In addition, in this very critical budget year, competition will be very keen and much work will need to be done to justify appropriations for many of the services you need and have requested, particularly where we are requesting increases or funds for new services.

Indications are that this session of the Congress will be shortened because of political conventions and election campaigns. All of this makes it necessary for me and my assistant commissioners to spend a major portion of our time the next few weeks in Washington in support of legislation for you

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BIGHORN PACT SIGNED

From Indian Record-January 1968

"This Pact will permit a splendid Indian-owned resource to be put to use for the recreational advantage of the public, while the Indians themselves derive substantial economic benefits from the influx of the tourists who come to enjoy the area's natural beauty," Udall said.

At the conference were Mrs. Pauline Small, Crow Tribal Council Secretary; Edison Real Bird, Tribal Council Chairman; Secretary Udall; and Senator Lee Metcalf, of Montana. Watching the ceremony, which took place December 1 in the Secretary's Washington office, are members of the Tribal Council, Interior Department, and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.

"Under this agreement," Real Bird said, "certain rights or privileges,

including the sale of fishing and hunting permits, native handicrafts, overnight accommodations, and boat, camper and auto supplies, will be extended to the Tribe.

"This joint venture of the Crow Tribe of Indians and National Park Service is a new undertaking. It is the hope of Real Bird that this cooperative method brings opportunities for the Crow people such as employment, business, other related tourism industry, and the development of our resources....We feel this cooperation sets a new feature in government-Indian tribe relationships, and that many worthwhile ventures will materialize throughout the United States. Such endeavors will certainly bring the true image of the American Indian in perspective. We expect this agreement to be one more forerunner for the development of the Crow Tribe."

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AND INDIANS

The University of Montana has the right to feel proud of it's service to the Indians in the State of Montana. The tendency in the past has been to downgrade and make every effort by the University appear to be more insignificant. The five units of the University renders more service to the Indian people in Montana than they do to the other citizens. This is a broad statement, but the record of events will show that this is the case. The University of Montana is the outstanding University in the West doing a broad and thorough job in solving Indian problems. They have never refused any responsibility.

The Montana State University at Bozeman, Eastern Montana College at Billings, Western Montana College at Dillon, Montana Technical School at Butte, State University of Montana at Missoula, and Northern Montana at Havre all have functioned well carrying out good Indian programs, especially designed for Indian people. The services rendered by the Montana State University at Bozeman extend far beyond the classroom instruction. They have an Indian museum, to help preserve Indian culture. They have many bulletins studying Indian problems and Indian population. These have been compiled by their research departments. The Department of Agriculture is constantly called upon to help solve problems on Indian reservations. There have been many Indian boys and girls who have graduated from this institution who are now scattered all over the United States working in technical and educational fields and a credit to the State and Montana Indians. Eastern Montana College at Billings is essentially an educational institution. Many young Girls and Boys, especially from the Eastern part of the State on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations, attend this school and they graduate and obtain degrees in teaching fields and are found not only in Montana but in all our western States. They have a wonderful record in the field of education as good teachers. The Eastern Montana College also has taken a strong initiative in the OEO programs. They have trained Head Start teachers, they have taken dropouts from school and trained them under their Upward Bound Program. They have conducted research intermediate reading classes on several of our reservations and have done fine work in trying to upgrade education level of our Indian boys and girls.

The Montana State College at Dillon is also a training institution and Indian boys and girls have been going to this school for a large number of years.

They have come out of school well trained and are found all over the western part of the United States. One of the outstanding graduates from Western Montana College of education is Miss Florence Schmidt who is teaching in one of the California College in teacher training. She is one of outstanding examples of the fine work that has been done in working with Indian people in Montana.

The University of Montana at Missoula has long been educating Indian people, not only as teachers but in all various professional schools of the institution. They are graduates from the School of Journalism, the School of Business, and other professional schools on the campus. They have trained all the OEO, Community program directors in the State, they also are the first University in the United States to initiate a program for the Basic Training and Prevocational Training of young Indian Men and Women who have dropped out from school in the Elementary grades. They went so far as to accommodate training for the young men with families and provided living quarters for the families while attending school. They also provided training for mothers in home development and management programs while their husbands were taking the Basic Training Course. The purpose of this was to improve the family life and make transfers into the industrial world more easy and more satisfactory. The program also included the training of ten unwed mothers and approximately 50 single men. These men and women all live in the regular University dormitories along with the other students and all are well accepted.

The University of Montana also has requested to become a part of the Consortium of Universities to administer OEO programs within the state. This application has been making good progress and has looked for a signed contract in this area in the near future. It is hoped that the Basic Training program will be available next year to Montana Indians, because it solves a problem that has been too difficult for our government and our social order to cope with. If it continues to be successful it will probably become the pattern that will be used on all Indian reservations in the United States because there is no program set up which can compare with it. Montana Technical School at Butte is designed primarily to train mining engineers and petroleum engineers. It is especially designed to provide that background of education which is so fundamental for scientist and technical workers. Several Indian people in this state have attended this school and graduated. There are not as many students attending this school because of it's extremely technical nature. The school is proud of the few Indians who have graduated from the department of engineering, mining, and petroleum engineering and they are giving a good account of themselves.

Northern Montana College of Havre is essentially a vocational training school. A large number of our Indian people from the Northern part of the state have enrolled in this school and are working all over the entire Northwest and Montana is proud of the fine contribution which they make to the economy of our state and the Northwest. The Indian people come mostly from the reservations in the Northern part of the state: Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy, and Blackfeet. The school has done a great deal to stimulate interest in skilled training among Indian people in this part of the state. In the past, this area has been quite ignored and there is very little interest among our Indian people for educational training. The school has made a tremendous effort to render a complete and satisfactory service to Indian people. Many efforts which have been made the last

five months to depreciate the efforts of Montana State University units in the treatment of our Indian people which have been on the verge of being disgraceful. A good many of the criticism are definitely untruths and the efforts to inject outside influences are no credit to these critics. They have found themselves in very difficult positions and they no doubt have begun to realize how unwise and how foolish their efforts have been. The Indian people have risen very strongly to the support of the various Montana University units and they no doubt have contributed a great deal to the recognition which has been given various units in Montana by the federal government units.

FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS HOLD CONFERENCE IN HELENA FEBRUARY 13.

Federal-State Relations officials held its conference on Federal State Relations for the Division No.2 which dealt with Bureau of Indian Affairs problems, Social Security, and Vocational Rehabilitation. The meeting was held in the House of Representatives Chamber and had 32 representatives present. K.W. Bergan, Coordinator of Indian Affairs, was called upon to present the problem on Manpower Training as follows:

Indian Reservation Housing is at a very low level; far below accepted standards. Some studies show 80 percent below average housing standards. Three Montana reservations have requested Manpower Training for building skills to build better homes but have been denied. The tribal Councils have been able to get ear-marked funds for materials but do not have funds for the labor, and the projects need carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, and other skilled workmen.

Mr. Sias was called upon to explain the obstacles. He emphasized the two principal obstacles as follows:

1. Red Tape
2. Labor Unions

Mr. Paul Strong, from the Regional Area Manpower Training Authority at Kansas City, explained the problems from the federal level. These arose mainly in the law. He explained that this was a real problem among Indians. The first is employability and the second is the permanent employment of trainees. He suggested that the present training program at the University of Montana at Missoula might solve the problem.

The comment was offered that the present apprenticeship program would not solve the problem because it requires 4 years of training and students would have to obtain the training away from the reservation. Mr. Canan, Area Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, explained the future for this kind of work was reasonably bright.

The Blackfeet have a prefab housing project developing, using local labor and OEO training. Housing construction on reservations will not be solved overnight, but will take ten to twenty years.

Mr. Woodenlegs, Northern Cheyennes, explained the housing problems among the Northern Cheyennes and the need for skilled workers. The demand is increasing each year he said. Lack of trained workers is destroying initiative and interest.

Mr. Fredricks suggested that the reservations solve their own problems

because no answer seems possible today under present Manpower Training Program, and the problems seem to be local problems.

Mr. Strong, from Manpower Training then proposed that investigation be made of a new approach called the "Manpower Training Sheltered Work Program" which is getting considerable attention in Washington. It is applied to small areas and is based upon need. This program applies to the handicapped and rural areas.

Mr. Canan explained the Turn-Key Program for housing construction which is used on the Rocky Boy and the Crow reservations.

The discussions occupied 60 percent of the time for this group which is an indication of the interest shown.

Some Tribal Council will explore further into the "Manpower Training Sheltered Work Programs" and implement the idea.

The employability will be on the reservation where the demand exists and will last for a minimum of ten years.

The section devoted to the study of water resource studies did not materialize due to the lack of interest. Representatives from the office of Economic Development were present and prepared to discuss the problems.

WALKER-RIGSBY REPORTS ON RESOURCES AND GUARANTEED LOANS.

Clearly, there is widespread opposition to termination of reservations and a strong desire that treaty rights and Indian land be preserved in their entirety. There is a widespread wish to participate more fully information of policies affecting Indian people. In the opinion of most of those making recommendations, many Bureau of Indian Affairs services need expansion. Industrialization of reservations and maximal development of recreational potentials also are widespread recommendations. Requests for improved water and road systems were numerous, as were recommendations for increased appropriations, services, facilities, and opportunities in health, education, employment, and housing. Increased development of Indian resources was a common request closely related to the equally common request for thorough human resources surveys under government auspices. Finally, virtually universal requests were for expansion of the Bureau of Indian Affairs revolving loan fund and for provision of loan facilities to enable tribes to buy up their heirship land interests for consolidation into tribal holdings.

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These men are anthropologists at the University of Idaho and New Mexico. The summary was found in the magazine, Truth, and published by the Indian Rights Association.

GRAND JURY MUST INCLUDE INDIANS

Because no Passamaquoddy Indian names were listed on the master list from which the grand jury names were drawn Superior Court Justice James P. Archibald discharged the Washington County grand jury following the October term. A new grand jury is to be chosen for the February and June, 1968 terms but the names of qualified voters from each of two Passamaquoddy reservations were to be included on the list from which grand jurors are to be chosen.

INDIANS HAVE FISHING RIGHTS

A recent conference in Washington between Robert Schoning, Oregon State Fisheries Director, and Thor Tollefson, Director of the Washington State Department of Fisheries and top officials of the Department of the Interior to explore possibilities of cooperatively developing regulations that would recognize and provide for Indian off-reservation treaty fishing rights is reported in an Interior Department news release.

Secretary Udall said he was encouraged by the fact that the states' proposal recognized the special treaty rights of the Indians and added:

"The tribes, the states and the Federal Government all have responsibilities for and interest in conserving and governing the fishery resource, and a true spirit of cooperation will be required of all parties." Secretary Udall stressed the necessity of involving the tribes in development of basic approaches for establishing fair, reasonable and necessary conservation regulations.

There is no indication in the release that there were included in the conference any of the Indians affected or any attorneys directly representing them. We hope that the Indians will be brought early into the considerations and their involvement maintained throughout.